

Build Back Better plan embodied the vision of the American people and is the kind of legislation that assures our people, hardworking Americans across the country, that we will not abandon them in their time of need.

Now, I love history. And tomorrow is a very special day in the Virgin Islands. It is Contract Day. I can't help but make the connection between the landmark provisions outlined in Build Back Better, this transformational piece of legislation, and what is happening in our Halls of Congress as we come to the point of passing that, with the struggle that took place in my home on St. Croix on October 1, 1878. Then known as the Danish West Indies, on that day in history, almost 150 years ago, four brave, stalwart women led the St. Croix Labor Rebellion, also known to us in the Virgin Islands as "Fireburn." We honor the memory and sacrifices made by our ancestors on this day, which we call Contract Day.

Now, after slaves in the Danish West Indies organized, fought, and took their freedom from chattel slavery in 1848, a new type of slavery was formed in a labor bill the following year to regulate the now free workers. The law stipulated a day wage and restricted and confined workers to remain on one plantation for the entire year. That location could only change on Contract Day, October 1.

Former slaves worked on the same plantation as before with little to no improvements in their living conditions, healthcare, no childcare, education, no change in income. These new restrictions forced the workers to bear an impossible, untenable burden. They soon realized that they were free in name alone.

The untenable working and living conditions along with the false hope that labor laws may change and then finding out that they were not going to change, ignited a protest that led to a rebellion in Fredriksted on the island of St. Croix. That movement was bravely led by four women who we immortalize in our history as the queens: Queen Mary Thomas, Queen Mathilde Macbean, Queen Susanna "Bottom Belly" Abrahamson, and Queen Axeline "Queen Agnes" Salomon, demanding all plantations improve workers' wages and repeal the Labor Act of 1849.

Many of the protestors were killed; hanged. The women were tied to a stake, covered in molasses, and burned, irony being that the same cane that they cut, made into sugar and molasses, would be the instrument of their cruel death.

The fight for appropriate pay, job creation, equity and improvement in working conditions, living wages, sanitary housing, clean drinking water, especially for those in need, continues today in America. And we are attempting to solve those with the provisions in President Biden's Build Back Better plan.

All people, they simply want support, a foundation for them to have a rep-

utable shot at the American Dream. Women want meaningful jobs and the ability to leave their children in sanitary, clean, safe, affordable childcare; the ability to buy a home so that you can obtain equity for your children's college; to start a business.

When I think of my ancestors and how bravely they fought—some to their death—for the causes of equity and improved labor conditions, I am encouraged to continue advocating, championing, fighting for the changes that I believe the Build Back Better plan will bring us closer to, bring our Nation and those within it to those dreams that we all have.

I pray this same encouragement and spirit of boldness and perseverance for all of my colleagues who are standing with us in that fight.

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#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID STEFFEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dedicated law enforcement officer from Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Northern Lancaster County Regional Chief of Police David Steffen was recently selected to serve as the president of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, which represents over 1,200 commanding level officers across local, State, and Federal law enforcement entities in Pennsylvania.

Chief Steffen has spent his 40-plus-year career in law enforcement, having served in Jackson Township, Hampden Township, and then the Northern York County Regional Police Department, before being named the first chief of Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department in 2011.

As chief of the department, Steffen leads over 30 full-time sworn officers and three civil staff, covering approximately 100 square miles in north central Lancaster County.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chief Steffen for supporting his fellow law enforcement officers, for achieving this recognition, and congratulate him on his new and well-deserved role.

To Chief Steffen and law enforcement officers across Pennsylvania's 11th District and across the country, thank you for your dedicated service and your efforts to keep our community safe.

HONORING ELIZABETHTOWN MAYOR CHUCK  
MUMMERT

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Mayor Chuck Mummert of Elizabethtown Borough in Lancaster County.

Mayor Mummert was recently named Mayor of the Year by the Associations of Mayors of Boroughs of Pennsylvania. Mayor Mummert has served the

residents of Elizabethtown since 2006, in his first 4 years as a member of borough council there, and then since 2010 as mayor.

In addition to this honor, Mayor Mummert, in 2018, received the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence, and he previously served as president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

Mayor Mummert is known as the singing mayor, as he is frequently called upon to lend his talented voice in singing the national anthem at events; something that I have certainly always enjoyed.

So I want to congratulate Mayor Mummert on being named Mayor of the Year, and to thank him for all of his work in continuing to make Elizabethtown Borough an exceptional place to live, work, and raise a family.

#### HONORING FATHER EMIL JOSEPH KAPAUN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor one of the finest men to ever come from the State of Kansas, Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, or Kapaun, as he is frequently referred to in Kansas.

Father Kapaun, or Kapaun, who grew up on a farm in Kansas, was ordained as a priest for the Wichita Diocese on June 9, 1940. He went on to become a U.S. Army Chaplain during World War II and the Korean war with the rank of captain.

Father Kapaun died in a North Korean prison camp on May 23, 1951, at the age of 35. In 35 short years, Father Kapaun sacrificed more and saved more lives and souls than many could ever hope to do in 100 years.

Many around the world rightly celebrate the story of Father Kapaun, who is being considered for sainthood by the Catholic Church; a first for a native Kansan.

His Medal of Honor citation gives a small glimpse at the deep reservoir of Father Kapaun's bravery and honor. It reads:

Chaplain Kapaun calmly walked through his withering enemy fire in order to provide comfort and medical aid to his comrades and rescue the wounded from no-man's-land.

After the battle, when given the option to escape to safety with his unit, Father Kapaun volunteered to stay behind to care and minister to the wounded. He was subsequently captured by the Communists and taken to a prison camp where he was forced to march more than 60 miles in harsh weather.

While in captivity, his frank, down-to-earth Kansas manner, along with the unassuming farm style and dry wit, made him the servant leader for all the POWs held by the Communists. Although greatly suffering himself, he always put his needs second to others. His strength and optimism allowed his